28th November 1928]

Collection of rents from landowners whose lands have been acquired for the Mettur Project.

* 741-B Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the people residing in villages near Mettur, whose houses and lands have been acquired, submitted a memorial to the Government that there was an original understanding that the Government would collect from them only a rent calculated at 4 per cent on the purchase money paid to them and that the subordinate officers have been now demanding 6 per cent;

(b) whether the members of the Mettur Project deputation also have made a recommendation that the rent may be collected on a 4 per cent basis till the lands and houses are submerged;

(c) whether the Government have considered the whole question in view of the above and arrived at any decision, and if so, to what effect; and

(d) whether, if no decision has been arrived yet, the Government have any objection to come to a conclusion at once and pass orders in favour of the memorialists at an early date?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) & (d) The Government have decided that the rent should be limited to 4 per cent of the compensation paid by the Government.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I enquire from what date the rent will be collected, from the date of the Government Order or any prior date?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"From the date on which the men are renting the lands."

Abolition of the Godavari Anicut division.

* 745 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Godavari anicut and its surrounding were constituted into a separate division for Public Works Department;

(b) of whom the staff consisted;

(c) what the annual cost of this department was for last year;

(d) for how long this separate department was in existence;

(e) the nature of the work this department was doing;

(f) whether this department has been abolished; and

(g) if so, for what reasons?

A.—(a) A subdivision was constituted in 1916 for the charge of the Godavari Delta Headworks which included the anicut, quarries, buildings at Dowlaishweram and brick, lime and surki manufacture.

(b) The staff consisted of an Assistant Engineer, two clerks and three peons.

(c) The pay of the above staff calculated on the basis of the average pay of the posts, amounts to Rs. 7,380 per annum. Information regarding expenditure incurred on allowances and contingencies is not available.